

June 30, 2017

Dr. Lorne Buchman
President
ArtCenter College of Design
1700 Lida St.
Pasadena, CA 91103

Dear President Buchman:

This letter serves as formal notification and official record of action taken concerning ArtCenter College of Design (ACCD) by the WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC) at its meeting June 21-23, 2017. This action was taken after consideration of the report of the review team that conducted the Accreditation Visit to ArtCenter College of Design March 28-30, 2017. The Commission also reviewed the institutional report and exhibits submitted by ArtCenter College of Design prior to the Offsite Review (OSR), and the supplemental materials requested by the team after the OSR. The Commission appreciated the opportunity to discuss the visit with you and your colleague Fred Fehlau, Provost. Your comments were very helpful in informing the Commission's deliberations. The date of this action constitutes the effective date of the institution's new status with WSCUC.

Actions

1. Receive the Accreditation Visit team report
2. Reaffirm accreditation for a period of eight years
3. Schedule the next reaffirmation review with the Offsite Review in fall 2024 and the Accreditation Visit in spring 2025
4. Schedule the Mid-Cycle Review in spring 2021
5. Request an Interim Report to be submitted by March 1, 2021 to include:
 - a. Evidence of completed program reviews for each degree program, general education, and co-curricular areas. A full cycle of program review (including those done before the Accreditation Visit) for all academic and designated co-curricular areas should be completed by the time of this Report. The Report should include appropriate findings from external reviewers and the resulting memoranda of understanding with the provost that show how the findings and areas identified for improvement will be addressed with action plans and timelines, as appropriate
 - b. Core competency assessments, to include four years of longitudinal data (2017 – 2020) for the five core competencies
 - c. Program learning outcomes assessments, to include four years of longitudinal data (2017 – 2020) for each of ArtCenter's degree programs
 - d. Summary description of the evolution of shared governance, with specific response to the recommendations from the visiting team report of March 2017

Commendations

The Commission commends ArtCenter College of Design in particular for the following:

1. Devoting significant time to the development and fulfillment of its strategic plan Create Change 1.0 as well as the recently adopted Create Change 2.0.
2. Using best practices to inform the institution's development of systems, policies, professional development offerings, and handbooks relating to program review and assessment. The amount of work ACCD has committed to building systems for learning outcomes assessment and program review is impressive.
3. Being dynamic, focused on the future, and keenly aware of developments and trends in the disciplines the institution offers. The institution maintains a programmatic focus on professionalism and fosters strong industry connections.
4. Having effectively re-energized, re-populated and re-engaged the board of trustees.
5. Ensuring that the institution is financially healthy and finances are well managed.
6. Earnestly engaging with the challenges of diversity, accessibility, and affordability.
7. Regularizing faculty ranks, compensation, and reappointment procedures.

Recommendations

The Commission identifies the following issues for further development:

1. Assessment of Learning Outcomes and Program Review (CFRs 2.4, 2.7, 3.3, 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, and 3.3)

ArtCenter has put significant effort into developing systems for program review and assessment; however, it is critical for these processes to be implemented throughout the institution. The Commission recommends that:

- The institution attend to completing the program reviews for all of its degree programs, general education program, and co-curricular areas with greater urgency;
- The institution strengthen course- and program-level assessment practices that produce data and evidence of student learning for every degree program;
- The institution consolidate the organizational structure for the functions of educational effectiveness for greater coherence;
- The institution provide considerably more faculty training to ensure course- and program-level assessment processes reflect best practices and provide data and evidence of student learning.

2. Shared Governance (CFRs 3.7, 3.10, 4.6)

The relatively new shared governance model at ArtCenter is at an evolutionary stage requiring additional development to help it fully mature. There does not appear to be a shared understanding of this governance model among institutional stakeholders. The Commission recommends that:

- The faculty and administration further discuss the meaning of shared governance in the ArtCenter context and the role that faculty shared governance, in particular, plays in institutional decision-making. A

common statement summarizing the conclusions of these discussions should be developed and widely shared.

In taking this action to reaffirm accreditation, the Commission confirms that ArtCenter College of Design has addressed the three Core Commitments and has successfully completed the two-stage institutional review process conducted under the 2013 Standards of Accreditation. Between this action and the time of the next review for reaffirmation, the institution is encouraged to continue its progress, particularly with respect to student learning and success.

In accordance with Commission policy, a copy of this letter will be sent to the chair of ArtCenter College of Design's governing board in one week. The Commission expects that the team report and this action letter will be posted in a readily accessible location on the ArtCenter College of Design's website and widely distributed throughout the institution to promote further engagement and improvement and to support the institution's response to the specific issues identified in these documents. The team report and the Commission's action letter will also be posted on the WSCUC website. If the institution wishes to respond to the Commission action on its own website, WSCUC will post a link to that response on the WSCUC website.

Finally, the Commission wishes to express its appreciation for the extensive work that ArtCenter College of Design undertook in preparing for and supporting this accreditation review. WSCUC is committed to an accreditation process that adds value to institutions while contributing to public accountability, and we thank you for your continued support of this process. Please contact me if you have any questions about this letter or the action of the Commission.

Sincerely,



Mary Ellen Petrisko
President

MEP/ cno

Cc: William Ladusaw, Commission Chair
Fred Fehlau, ALO
Robert Davidson, Board Chair
Members of the Accreditation Visit team
Christopher Oberg, Vice President